

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A percussion and/or drill hammer, comprising:
 - a hammer housing in which at least a part of a drive mechanism and a percussion mechanism are situated,
 - a handle device which at least partially overlaps an outer surface of the hammer housing, which is capable of movement relative to the hammer housing in a working direction (A), and on which at least one handle is provided, and
 - a guide device for the linear guiding of the handle device relative to the hammer housing, wherein the guide device has a rolling element device that is disposed between the hammer housing and the handle device and that is supported by an axle that is attached to one of the hammer housing and the handle device, that and wherein the guide device allows relatively uninhibited movement of the hammer housing relative to the handle device in the working direction (A), and ~~that~~ inhibits lateral and rotational movement between the hammer housing and the handle in directions other than the working direction (A).
2. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the guide device is provided laterally on the hammer housing, in relation to the working direction (A).
3. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 1, wherein
 - the handle device surrounds the hammer housing at a distance, so that an intermediate space is formed, and in that
 - the guide device is situated in the intermediate space between the hammer housing and the handle device.

4. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the rolling element device ensures a defined spring characteristic transverse to the working direction (A) in such a way that the handle device is capable of limited movement relative to the hammer housing transverse to the working direction (A).

5. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the rolling element device has rolling elements that are one of i) fastened to the handle device so as to rollably cooperate with guide tracks provided on the outside of the hammer housing and, ii) fastened to the hammer housing so as to rollably cooperate with guide tracks provided on the inside of the handle device.

6. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 5, wherein the roller elements are each held against the guide tracks with a defined force by one of a spring device and by the elastic effect of the handle device.

7. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 5, wherein the rolling elements have a defined spring characteristic, and thus a deformability in their radial direction.

8. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 1, wherein a longitudinal spring device is provided that acts in the working direction (A) between the hammer housing and the handle device.

9. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the extension of the hammer housing in the working direction (A) is greater than in a direction transverse to the working direction (A).

10. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 5, wherein a portion of the housing extends in the working direction (A) and has an outer cross-sectional shape that does not change.

11. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 10, wherein the guide tracks are provided in the portion of the housing having the outer cross-sectional shape that does not change.

12. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 10, wherein the percussion mechanism is situated in the portion of the housing having the outer cross-sectional shape that does not change.

13. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 10, wherein the outer cross-sectional shape corresponds essentially to a prismatic shape, and wherein at least one of the rolling elements grasps an edge of the prismatic shape.

14. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the handle device is fashioned as a handle cover that surrounds at least a part of the hammer housing.

15. (Currently Amended) The percussion and/or drill hammer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the guide device is positioned along working direction (A) at a position that is nearer a tool receptacle than a handle for being grasped by a user that is attached to the handle device, the tool receptacle being located at end of the hammer housing that is not overlapped by the handle device.

16. (Currently Amended) A percussion and/or drill hammer comprising:

- a handle cover having a hollow interior and a longitudinal axis;
- at least one handle for being gripped by an operator, the handle extending laterally outwardly from the handle cover relative to a longitudinal axis of the handle cover;
- a hammer housing having a longitudinal axis that is generally aligned with the longitudinal axis of the handle cover, the hammer housing having a first longitudinal end extending beyond the handle cover and a second longitudinal end that is enclosed by the by the handle cover;
- a tool receptacle located at the first end of the hammer housing; and
- rollers positioned laterally between and engaging the hammer housing and the handle cover and permitting movement of the handle cover relative to the hammer housing along the longitudinal axis of the handle cover while at least substantially preventing lateral movement of the handle cover relative to the hammer housing, the rollers being positioned nearer the first end of the hammer housing than the second end, each roller having an axis of rotation that is positionally fixed with respect to one of the handle cover and the hammer housing.

17. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer of Claim 16, wherein the rollers comprise a pair of rollers oriented in a common plane that is generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the hammer housing.

18. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer of Claim 17, further comprising another pair of rollers that are offset along the longitudinal axis of the hammer housing from the first pair or rollers.

19. (Previously Presented) The percussion and/or drill hammer of Claim 16, wherein each roller has a prismatic shape that cooperates with a shape of both of the hammer housing and the handle cover to allow relative translation of the hammer housing and the handle cover in a direction aligned with the longitudinal axis of the hammer housing and to resist rotation and lateral translation between the hammer housing and the handle cover.